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P 106-121

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Magnanimous conflagration

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ADVICE ON SYSTEM OF WORK IN THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE CROSS & STAR

Col. 3 : 17

'And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.'

The above passage is quite clear and in the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, everything must be done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and you must always give thanks to God.

How to elect people into any post whatsoever: In doing this we refer you to Acts. 6 : 3 which reads as follows:

"Wherefore brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom when ye shall appoint over the business."

It is not necessary to appoint seven men as stated above but even where you can find only one man of honest report etc. Then appoint him to do the work especially if it is a spiritual work.

You will not be able to elect a right person if you do not put it to God in prayer so that He may lead and guide you to choose the right person. This was what the Apostles did and you must do the same.

See Acts. 1 : 24 - 26 which reads thus:-

'And they prayed and said, Thou Lord which knowest the hearts of all men. Shew whether of these two thou hast chosen. And they gave forth

their lots and the lot fell upon Matthias and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.'

Those to be elected: Titus 1:5-9

'For this cause left I thee in Crete; that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God: not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate. Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.'

Do not be in a hurry to elect someone. The above show you clearly what type of person you should elect so that he may be able to discharge his duties faithfully. It is said that the words of two or three witnesses confirm any statement. The first witness for this matter is in the book of **1st. Tim. 3.1-7** And it reads as follows:-

"This is a true saying: if a man desires the office of a bishop he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre: but patient, not a brawler, not covetous. One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity. For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" Not a novice,

lest being lifted up with pride he fell into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must have a good report of them which are without : lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.’’

Those who have such qualities are those who are to hold posts or work in the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. Any station having such people should send their names to the Leader, such people will be given full authority to take care of the branch. Such people should be the head of all the different sections of the station such as committees; executives; general meetings etc. If such a person is only one then, he is the correct man and if more than one then, they are the correct people to take care of the station.

Those who are elected should not feel proud and elated but should humble themselves. See **Matt. 20:26-28 (second witness)** which reads as follows:

“But it shall not be so among you but whosoever will be great among you let him be your minister. And whoever will be chief among you let him be your servant. Even as the son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many.’’

The one who is elected is the one who must serve others in every possible way. He is the one who must do all sorts of work for others. If such a person has no love and patience and does not humble himself how can he serve others? ‘I am elected to serve others and not to be served, should be in the minds of all workers in the Brother-

hood of the Cross and Star.

Acts. 4 : 34 Charity, (First witness)

‘Neither was there any among them that lacked for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the prices of the things that were sold.’

The above passage show that all should be one and any person who have more should consider his brother who is not well placed in life and share his possessions with him, helping him in any way possible.

The second witness is in **Rome 15 : 25 - 27** and it read thus: “But now I go to Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. For it had pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. It hath pleased them verily and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.”

All should consider the above. Have you not been made partakers of spiritual things and have you sent your contribution to Jerusalem so that you may do your duty of ministering unto the saints in carnal things.

The third witness is in 1st. Cor. 16 : 1 - 4

Now concerning the collection for the saints as I have given order to the churches of Galatia even so do ye upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him that there be no gatherings when I come. And when

I come whosoever ye shall approve by your letters them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem. And if it be meet that I go also they shall go with me.

This shows that whatever gatherings or collections made must all be sent to the Leader. **Collection:** Tithe; Freewill offering; Charity and donation must be forwarded to the Leader as no one is entitled to keep or authorised to use this money. Gift of any kind as clothes for the poor should also be sent to the Leader who is guided by God to distribute them to the proper persons. This instruction Christ left behind to all those who are His disciples. Any station that use donations, tithe, free-will offering, charity and collection to build houses or build up the station we have nothing to do with such station because the amount has not passed through the correct channel as stated above. Everything given to God either by any individual or group of persons the stations have nothing further to do with it. Those things be they money or anything else do not belong to the Leader or the stations concerned. They belong to God and must be used according to His wish through the direction of the Leader.

If you want to do anything for God, you can do it, and if you do not care to do it you can leave it for no one forces you to do anything. But once you decide to do anything or to give anything you should give out and hands off.

2nd Cor. 9 : 6 - 9

‘But this I say, He that soweth sparingly shall

reap also sparingly and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work: As it is written, he had dispersed abroad, he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now if your donations etc., do not reach us, how can our prayer reach you. If you do not give the sower seeds to sow how do you expect to reap? Many people do not know that whatever they get and whatever is given to them is from God. God has ordained that the same should be given back to Him for the furtherance of his work. If you have not done so how do you stand with God the giver of all things.

2nd Cor. 8 : 8 - 15

I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich. And here in I give my advice: for this is expedient, for you who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. Now therefore, perform the doing of it, that as there was readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which we leave. For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: but by an equality, that at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may supply for your want: that there may be equality.

As it is written, he that hath gathered much had nothing over, and he that hath gathered little had no lack. Now you are rich and Christ is poor. Let us therefore do things according to the love of Christ so that your surplus may be passed over to someone deficient. You are not to use all your possessions for your own good alone. But whatever you receive from Christ the giver of all good things, should be shared with others. Let us show you the difference between those who are willing to satisfy those conditions and those who are unwilling and what their lot will be in future.

1st. Cor. 3 : 8

“Now he that planted and he that watereth are one and everyman shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.”

Col. 3 : 23 - 25

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men. Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance, for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done, and there is no respect of persons.”

Revelation 22 : 12

“And behold I come quickly and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be.”

Mark 13 : 35 - 37

‘Watch ye therefore, for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even or at midnight or at the cock-crowing or in the morning. Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping: and what I say unto you, I say unto all, watch.’

Luke 12 : 39 - 48

‘And this know, that if the good man of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye, therefore, ready also; for the son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. Then Peter said unto him “Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?” And the Lord said, who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his Lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?’

‘Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing, of a truth I say unto you that he will make him ruler over all he hath. But if that servant say in his heart, my Lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the servants and maidens and to eat and drink and to be drunken. The Lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.’

And that servant, which knew his Lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will shall be beaten with many stripes. But

he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. This shows you clearly that whatever Christ gives to you and you use it only for yourself instead of the poor needy then you have to give an account of it specially as a follower of Christ, whether as prophet, conductor, worker, etc. there must be punishment if you do not comply with the above, if you are incharge of a station and you do not comply with the above instructions your punishment is the same. If you act truthfully, giving truthful account of all things, whether envelopes or donations handed over to you, you are to be truthful to the leader about all these things. If you are truthful to the leader about all these things; be sure you will equally receive your sincere reward. But if you regard those donations as yours you are lost and your possession is lost.

But if you do it through ignorance, a small punishment will be meted to you, as you have been informed today and continue to do against these instruction you should know what to expect.

This teaches you that as God has given much He also expects much, from you. Whoever God gives much, he requires much and is prepared to give more.

Acts 1 : 24 - 26

And they prayed and said Thou Lord which knowest the heart of all men show whether of

these two thou hast chosen. That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship. From which Judas by transgression felt that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles. Christ is the head of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star; and he is the one to choose anyone to any post in the executives, committees etc. Even if you want to open a new station, put it in prayer. Anything you want to do, pray. Prayer is the key to the kingdom of heaven. Any foundation laid without Christ is a waste of time, as it cannot be good.

1 Cor. 12 : 4 - 12

‘Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operation but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit with all. For, to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom: to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same spirit: to another the gifts of healing by the same spirit: to another the working of miracles: to another prophecy: to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues: to another the interpretation of tongues. But all these worketh that one and the self same spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many are one body; so also in Christ.’

You should always put everything in prayer.

From the above passage you can clearly see why you are to go as a team. You should always come together for amongst you there are different gifts which must be put together in order to foster God's work. One man is not above the other but each with his own responsibility as given him by the Holy Ghost and you should work as a team.

1st. Timothy 5 : 19 - 21

Against an Elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Then that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elected angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another; doing nothing by partiality.

The above shows you clearly how to treat a member who had erred, a conductor or what you call leader at your station. Even if a man is sent to you from the headquarters, Calabar, and he misbehaves you are to treat him as shown in the above passage. Do not be partial.

1st. Timothy 5 : 22

Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins. Keep thyself pure.

We are anxious to have people who will be able to lead others to the right path. That is why we send you out to work and bring back your testimonials which are not written by hand. Some of you may be led to think that Leader Obu does not want anyone to be a leader. This is wrong. It is your work, yes your testimonials that will promote you.

Revelation 2 : 20 - 24

‘Notwithstanding, I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication: and she repent not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death: and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and heart: and I will give unto everyone of you according to your works. But unto you I say, unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of satan, as they speak: I will put upon you none other burden.’

Visioners are witnesses unto truth. If a visioner sees vision for you act on it. If a visioner sees vision and refuses to say it out such a visioner is not acting well and is condemned. Visioners are witnesses of God and if they mislead the people they are the more condemned. Visioners should not try to interpret or tell the people the meaning of what they see when the meaning is not given to them for by trying to do so they mislead the people.

Matthew 7 : 20 - 23

‘Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not everyone that saith unto me, “Lord, Lord” shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven; but he

that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day "Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Do not be anxious to be a Visioner, a Preacher, a Prophet or a Prophetess. But whatever talent is given to you do it diligently. God knows you by the work you do and when you do what He requires, He blesses you. By their fruits ye shall know them. Finally every member should have a copy of the constitution and read through it carefully so that he may be well acquainted with the inner working of the organization. All reports from every station should be forwarded to the Leader's Secretary the correct address being:-

The Leader's Secretary,
Brotherhood of the Cross & Star,
34 Ambo Street,
P. O. Box 49, Calabar.

All private and personal letters to the Leader should be addressed to him as under:-

Brother O. O. Obu
26 Mbukpa Road,
P. O. Box 49, Calabar.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen!